OMRI DAILY DIGEST
Vol. 1, No. 13, 18 January 1995

FATE OF ESTONIAN TRANSPORT MINISTER. Prime Minister Andres Tarand told a press conference on 17 January that he will not decide before 15 February whether to ask Transport and Communications Minister Andi Meister to resign, BNS reports. The Estonian National Independence Party is demanding Meister's resignation, arguing that since Meister left the ENIP in December it no longer had the ministry that the current coalition agreement had assigned to it. Tarand said that Meister was given three weeks to solve "certain concrete tasks in the field under his government" and if he succeeded he would not be asked to resign. Tarand refused to say what the "concrete tasks" were, but admitted that they were of a "political, not technical" character." -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

LATVIAN HEALTH MINISTER RESIGNS. Health Minister Normunds Zemvaldis denied on 17 January that his resignation the previous day was connected with pressure from the Cabinet or the Welfare Ministry, BNS reports. "It's fatigue, it's health problems, it's other problems," he said. Unofficial sources, however, suggest that Prime Minister Maris Gailis had suggested the resignation. Zemvaldis mentioned three possible candidates as his replacement while the Latvia's Way party proposed Physicians Society Chairman Peteris Apinis. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.